

BUSINESSWOMAN

Makeup Artist Brings Celebrity Talent to Bay Area Women

When you first meet Nellie Muganda, you can see why customers call her one of the most sought-after makeup artists in her field. Her creative talents and ability to provide a “fresh look” have catapulted her into an elite class in the fashion and beauty industry.

Nellie’s journey began when she moved to the U.S. from her home in Tanzania. After graduating with a degree in business,

The next decade found her jetting coast to coast to style models for *Vogue* covers and TV commercials, even styling Tory Amos and Paul McCartney. She attributes her success to her calm demeanor. “I never lose sight of the task at hand,” she says. “I take pride in maintaining a level of respect and professionalism with each client, no matter who they are.”

In 1998, Muganda settled in San Francisco and started her own studio, Neja Cosmetics,



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she found herself working for a modeling agency, booking models for jobs. With an instinctive flair for hair and makeup, she began styling the models before sending them off to their shoots.

Soon, photographers were asking, “Who did your makeup? And your hair?” Once the secret was out — that “the booker did it” — she received multiple requests from photographers. So Muganda took the plunge to become a makeup artist and stylist, beginning her new career.

at 1850 Fillmore Street. Neja offers makeup and hair consultations and offers its own line of cosmetics.

Recently, Muganda expanded her salon to allow a full spa experience, including makeup, hair, facial, massage, and manicure services. “The space is calm and restful, with hand-painted murals in each of the treatment rooms,” explains Muganda.

“One room is even dedicated to bridal parties and small groups for hair and makeup consultations.” (Neja offers the same ser-

vices offsite for weddings and events, and offers the popular “Girls’ Night (or Afternoon) Out,” where clients can bring a group for a session of total pampering.)

When asked about her signature look, Muganda says it’s minimalism. “I am known for my clean, fresh look, like Grace Kelly,” she smiles, “polished and bright.” ❁

For more information, contact Nellie Muganda at (415) 545-8502, neja@speakeasy.net or click on www.nejacosmetics.com.